**The Manatee**

Artist Statement

By

Kymberli Garcia-C.

The animal that I chose and painted was the manatee. Since manatees eat a lot of sea grass, they help the ecosystem by keeping the sea grass short. This helps maintain the health of the sea grass beds.

Manatees are endangered because since they spend most of their time in the shallow area of the water. Boats that are coming their way can cause the manatees and the boats to collide and causes the manatees to die. So that this problem decreases, there are now signs that say “slow-speed zones” in some locations. The signs help the boats be more careful and aware of where manatees can be located.

**The Florida Panther**

Artist Statement

By

**Britney Lopez-Lopez**

I chose to represent the Florida panther because of its importance to regulate the food chain in our ecosystem. Some of the panther’s prey includes; armadillos, deer, wild hogs, and raccoons. If the panther vanishes from its territory, the other animal’s populations will increase and create an unhealthy imbalance in our environment.